

Poetry.
For the Mercury.
SEASIDE THOUGHTS
BY TOM-TIT.
rambled away on a festival day
From vanity, glare and noise
To calm my soul, where the waves roll
In solitude's holy joys.
The lonely "Cliff" whence the sea-gull starts,
Where the clustering sea-pinks blow.
II.
And the many flowers, on the purple quartz,
Bends over the waves below,
Where the rambling clings, and the samphire
swings.
And the luminous trails,
And the sea-bird springs on his snowy wings
To blend with the distant sails.
III.
I leaned on a rock, and the soul waves there,
Plashed on the shingles round,
And the breath of Nature lifted my hair—
Dear God! how the face of thy child is fair,
And a glow of memory—tears and prayer
My spirit in a moment drained.
IV.
I bowed me to the rippling waves—
For a sail glided near—
And the spray as it fell upon pebble and shell
Received it may be a tear.
V.
For well I remember the fatal days
On the beautiful "Beach" I roamed,
The friends I trusted, the dreams I dreamed,
Hopes high as the clouds above,
Perchance 'twas a dream of a land redeemed,
Perchance 'twas a dream of love.
VI.
When first I trod on this breezy soil,
To me it was lovely ground,
For genius and beauty, rays of God,
Like a swarm of stars shone round.
VII.
Well, well, I have learned rude lessons since then,
In life's disenchanted hall,
I have scanned the motives and ways of men,
And skeleton grins through "all."
VIII.
Of the great heart-treasures of hope and trust,
I sought to find mine own,
I sought in that down-trodden temple's dust,
But faith in God alone.
IX.
I have seen too oft the domina tona
And the mask from the face of man,
To have sought but a smile of tranquil scorn
For all believed in then.
X.
The day is dark as the night with woes,
And my dreams are of battles lost,
Of solips, phantoms, wreck and loss,
And of exiles tempest-lost.
XI.
No more! no more! on the dreary shore,
"I heard a Canon sung."
With the early dead, is my only bed,
You shall not call me long.
XII.
I fade away to the home of clay,
With not one dream fulfilled,
My aching brow, in the dust I bow,
My heart and harp are stilled.
XIII.
Oh! would I might rest where my soul departs,
Where the clustering sea-pinks blow,
And the lovely flowers, on the purple quartz,
Dry over the waves below.
XIV.
Where crystals gleam in the caves about
Like virtue in human souls,
And the Victor Sea, with a thunder-shout,
Through the breach in the rock-wall rolls.
For the Mercury.
GOOD FRIDAY.
BY ELLER.
Night came down on Love's highest throne,
There was no light in all the earth,
Not even in the lover's eyes,
Not even in the children's mirth,
So thick a night came down and crushed
All earth-light into gloom of gloom,
And gathered for one funeral wreath
All earthly beauty, love and bloom.
Was there no light? Love's throne rose up
With gleam and glow into the cloud,
Lighting the unborn age to be;
Lighting the old world in its shroud;
No idle in all the eastern sea,
No continent in all the west,
But saw across the world's night,
The wondrous sign of love expressed.
No night came now, however dark,
However desolate and lone,
For any human child of earth,
Since first o'er earth that love-light shone,
But into it, for those who watch
Lifting wet eyes to Calvary,
That light shines out and makes the dark
Brighter than bright Eternity.
Even in the darkest night of all,
That ever touched mortal heart,
When e'er the sun of earthly love,
And hope and bliss together part,
Even then, most then, our night grows day,
With glowing of that Love divine,
Until admiring soul forgets
That aught beside could ever shine.
ALL'S WELL.
BY M. M'KEN KIDNALL.
The day is ended. Ere I sink to sleep,
My weary spirit seeks repose in Thine;
Father! forgive my trespasses, and keep
This little life of mine.
With loving kindness curtain Thou my bed,
And cool in rest my burning pilgrim feet;
Pardon be the pillow for my head—
So shall my sleep be sweet.
Peace with all the world, dear Lord, and Thee,
No fears my soul's unwavering faith can shake;
I'll well, I'll ever side the grave for me,
The morning light may break!

Selected Tale.
AN ADVENTURE IN THE ALPS.
BY A LONDON PROFESSOR.
Between eight and ten years ago, I en-
gaged in a long vacation campaign among
the Alps of Savoy. I was alone. My
object was not amusement, but study. I
occupied a Professor's Chair, and I was en-
gaged in collecting materials for a work
on the Flora of the higher Alps: and, to
this end, travelled chiefly on foot. My
route lay away from the beaten paths and
passes. I often journeyed for days through
regions where were neither inns nor vil-
lages. I often wandered from dawn till
dusk among sterile slopes unknown even
to the hardmen of the upper pasturage
and untrodden save by the fleet chamois
and the hunter. I thought myself for-
tunate at these times, if, toward evening, I
succeeded in steering my way down to the
nearest chalet, where, in company with a
half-savage mountaineer and a herd of
milch goats, I might find the shelter of a
rafter roof, and a supper of black bread
and whey.
On one particular evening I had gone
farther than usual, in pursuit of the Sen-
cio aurifer, a rare plant which I had hith-
erto believed indigenous to the southern
valleys of Monte Rose, but of which I
here succeeded in finding one or two indi-
ferent specimens. It was a wild and bar-
ren district, difficult to distinguish with
any degree of precision on the map; but
lying among the upper declivities of the Fal-
de Bagnes between the Mount Plaurier and
the Grand Combin. On the waste of rock
strewn mass to which I had climbed, there
was sign of human habitation. Above me,
lay the great ice-fields of Carabassiere, sur-
mounted by the silver summits of the
Graffeniere and Combin. To my left the
sun was going down rapidly between a
crest of smaller peak, the highest of which,
as well as I could judge from Osterwald's
map, was the Mount Blanc de Cheillon. In
ten minutes more, these peaks would be
crimson; in one short hour, it would be
night.
To be benighted on an Alpine plateau
towards the latter end of September is not
a desirable position. I knew it by recent
experience, and had no wish to repeat the
experiment. I therefore began retracing
my route as rapidly as I could, descending
in a northwesterly direction and keeping a
sharp lookout for any chalet that might
offer a shelter for the night. Pushing for-
ward thus, I found myself presently at the
head of a verdant little ravine, channelled,
as it were, in the face of the plateau. I
hesitated. It seemed, through the gather-
ing darkness, as if I could discern vague
traces of a path trampled here and there
in the deep grass. It also seemed as if the
ravine trended down towards the upper
pastures which were my destination. By
following it I could scarcely go wrong.—
Where there is grass, there are generally
cattle and a chalet; and I might possibly
find a nearer resting-place than I had an-
ticipated. At all events I resolved to try it.
The ravine proved shorter than I had
expected, and, instead of leading immedi-
ately downward, opened upon a second
plateau, through a well worn footway
struck off abruptly to the left. Pursuing
the footway with what speed I might, I
came, in the course of a few minutes, to a
sudden slope, at the bottom of which in a
basin almost surrounded by gigantic lime-
stone cliffs, lay a small dark lake, a few
fields, and a chalet. The rose tints had
by this time come and gone; and the snow
had put on that ghostly grey which pre-
cedes the dark. Before I could descend
the slope skirting the lake, and mount the
little eminence on which the house stood,
sheltered by its background of rocks, it
was already night, and the stars were in
the sky.
I went up to the door and knocked; no
one answered. I opened the door; all was
dark. I paused—held my breath—listened—
fancied I could distinguish a low
sound, as of some one breathing. My
second knock was followed by a quick
noise, like the pushing of a chair, and a
man's voice said hoarsely:
"Who is there?"
"A traveller," I replied, "seeking shel-
ter for the night."
A heavy footstep presently crossed the
floor, a sharp flash shot through the dark-
ness, and I saw by the flickering of tinder,
a man's face bending over a lantern. Hav-
ing lighted it, he said, with scarce a glance
towards the door, "Enter traveller," and
went back to his seat beside the empty
hearth.
I entered. The chalet was of a better
sort than those usually found at so great
an altitude, consisting of a dairy and house
place, with a loft overhead. A table, with
three or four wooden stools occupied the
center of the room. The rafters were hung
with branches of dried herbs and long
strings of Indian corn. A clock ticked in
a corner; a kind of rude pallet upon trea-
sies stood in a recess beside the fire-place;
and through a lattice, at the farthest end,
more than usually profound. I could not
help associating them, in some vague way,
with the mystery in the house. I per-
plexed myself with all kinds of wild con-
jectures as to what the nature of that mys-
tery might be. The woman's face haunt-
ed me like an evil dream. Again and
again I went from the lattice, vainly list-
ening for any sound in the rooms below.
A long time went by thus, until at length,
overpowered by the fatigues of the day, I
stretched myself on the mattress, took my
knapsack for a pillow, and fell fast asleep.
I can guess neither how long my sleep
lasted, nor from what cause I awoke. I
only know that my sleep was dreamless
and profound; and that I started from it
suddenly, unaccountably, trembling in ev-
ery nerve, and possessed by an overwhelm-
ing sense of danger.
Danger! danger of what kind? From
what? From whence? I looked round—
I was alone, and the quiet moon was shin-
ing in as serenely as when I fell asleep.—
I got up, walked to and fro, reasoned with
myself; all in vain. I could not stay the
beatings of my heart. I could not master
the horror that oppressed my brain. I felt
that I dared not lie down again; that I
must get out of the house somehow and at
once; that to stay would be death; that
the instinct by which I was governed must
at last be obeyed.
I could not bear it. Resolved to escape,
or at all events to sell life dearly, I strapped
on my knapsack armed myself with my
iron-headed alpenstock, took my large
clasp-knife between my teeth, and began
cautiously and noiselessly to descend the
ladder. When I was about half way
down, the alpenstock, which I was studi-
ously keeping clear of the ladder, encoun-
tered some dairy vessel, and sent it clat-
tering to the ground. Caution, after this,
was useless. I sprang forward, reached the
outer room at a bound, and found it to
my amazement deserted, with the door
wide open and the moonlight streaming in.
Suspecting a trap, my first impulse was to
stand still, with my back against the wall,
prepared for a desperate defense. All was
silent. I could only hear the ticking of
the clock, and the heavy beating of my
own heart. The pallet was empty. The
bread and milk were still standing where I
had left them on the table. The herds-
man's stool still occupied the same spot by
the desolate hearth. But he and his wife
were gone—gone in the dead of night—
leaving me, a stranger, in the occupation
of their home.
While I was yet irresolute whether to
go or stay, and while I was wondering at
the strangeness of my position, I heard or
fancied I heard something that might have
been the wind, save that there was no air
stirring—something that might have been
the walling of a human voice. I held my
breath—heard it again—followed it as it
died away. * * * I had not
far to go. A line of light glimmering under
the door of a shed at the back of the chalet,
and a cry bitterer and more piercing
than any I had yet heard, guided me di-
rectly to the spot.
I looked in—recoiled with horror—went
back, as if fascinated, and so stood for
some moments, unable to move, to think,
to do anything but stare helplessly upon
the scene below me. To this day, I can-
not recall it without something of the
same sensation.
Inside the hut, by the light of a pine-
torch thrust into an iron sconce against
the wall, I saw the herdsman kneeling by
the body of his wife; grieving over her,
like another Othello; kissing her white
lips, wiping the blood stains from her yel-
low hair, raving out inarticulate cries of
passionate remorse, and calling down all
the curses of heaven upon his own head,
and that of some other man who had brought
this crime upon him! I understood it all
now—all the mystery, all the terror, all
the despair. She had slain against him,
and he had slain her. She was quitted dead.
The very knife, with its hideous testimo-
ny fresh upon the blade, lay near the door.
I turned and fled—blindly, wildly, like
a man with bloodhounds on his track; now,
stumbling over stones; now, torn by
brambles; now, pausing a moment to take
breath; now, rushing forward faster than
before; now battling up hill with strain-
ing lungs and trembling limbs; now stag-
gering across a level space; now, making
for the higher ground again, and casting
never a glance behind! At length I reach-
ed a bare plateau above the line of vegeta-
tion where I dropped exhausted. Here I
lay for a long time, weak and stupefied,
until the intense cold of approaching dawn
forced upon me the necessity of action. I
rose and looked around on the scene, no
feature of which was familiar to me. The
very snow-peaks, though I knew they must
be the same, looked unlike the peaks of
yesterday. The very glaciers, seen from
a different point of view, assumed new
forms, as if on purpose to haffle me. Thus
perplexed I had no resource but to climb
the nearest height from which it was prob-
able that a general view might be obtain-
ed. I did so, just as the last belt of pur-
ple mist turned golden in the east, and the
sun rose.

A superb panorama lay stretched before
me, peak beyond peak, glacier beyond gla-
cier, valley and pine forest and pasture
slope, all flushed and pulsating in the
crimson vapors of the dawn. Here and
there I could trace the foam of a water-
fall, or the silver thread of a torrent; here
and there the canopy of faint blue smoke
that hovered upward from some hamlet
among the hills. Suddenly my eyes fell
upon a little lake—a still pool—lying in
the shade of an amphitheatre of rocks
some eight hundred feet below.
Until that moment the night and its
terrors appeared to have passed like a
wicked vision; but now the very sky seem-
ed darkened above me. Yes—there it all
lay at my feet. Yonder was the path by
which I had descended from the plateau,
and lower still the accursed chalet with its
back ground of rugged cliff and overhang-
ing precipice. Well might they lie in
shadow! Well might the sunlight refuse
to touch the ripples of that lake with gold,
and to light up the windows of that house
with an illumination direct from heaven!
Thus standing, thus looking down, I be-
came aware of a strange sound—a sound
singularly distinct, but far away—a sound
sharper and hollower than the fall of an
avalanche, and unlike anything that I re-
membered to have heard. While I was
yet asking myself what it could be or
whence it came, I saw a considerable frag-
ment of rock detach itself from one of the
heights overhanging the lake, bound rap-
idly from ledge to ledge, and fall with a
heavy splash into the water below. It was
followed by a cloud of dust, and a prolong-
ed reverberation, like the rolling of distant
thunder.
Next moment a dark fissure sprang into
sight all down the face of the precipice—
the fissure became a chasm—the whole
cliff wavered before my eyes—wavered,
parted, sent up a cataract of earth and
stones—and slid slowly, down, down into
the valley.
Deafened by the crash, and blinded by
the dust, I covered my face with my hands
and anticipated instant destruction. The
echoes, however, died away, and were suc-
ceeded by a solemn silence. The plateau
on which I stood, remained firm and un-
shaken. I looked up.
The sun was shining as serenely, the
landscape sleeping as peacefully as before.
Nothing was changed, save that a wide
white scar now defaced all one side of the
great limestone basin below, and a ghastly
mound of ruin filled the valley to its foot.
Beneath that mound lay buried all record
of the crime to which I had been an un-
willing witness. The very mountains had
come down and covered it—nature had
obliterated it from the face of the Alpine
solitude. Like and chalet, victim and exe-
cutioner, had disappeared forever, and the
peace thereof knew them no more.

Tim Carless.—Tim—you know Tim
Carless—was one of the most incorrigible
boys I ever met with, and one might
as well have attempted to straighten a
crab tree as to reform him. There was
not the slightest use of ever thinking of it.
Carless he was by name and careless by
nature. His mother used to say that if
Tim's head could uncrew he would be
sure to lose it, and she was not far out
there, for he forgot and neglected every-
thing but meal hours. He could tell to a
minute when dinner would be served, and
no one knew him to be absent or absent-
minded at such times. Eating to him was
a luxury, and he always ate one meal as
if impressed with the belief that he would
never have a like opportunity. And then
in the way of sleep Tim was wholly with-
out an equal. It made no difference to
him where, or at what hour, he took his
nap, so long as it did not interfere with his
eating, and when once fast asleep he was
never known to wake until the time came
round for another meal.
But as for work, there was nothing about
Tim that showed he had the slightest taste
for it. He could not remember a message
—unless it was to get something to eat—
long enough to cross the street and if you
gave him your watch with a request that
he would place it on the table, ten to one
he would let it drop. He never under-
took anything cheerfully, except eating,
and he never raised his hand to remove an
obstacle in his path, if a kick from his foot
would save him the trouble. Every one
knew his failings; he could not be trusted,
and so he lived a drone, and a hard time he
must have had of it. No one cared for
him, for he took no pains to better his con-
dition and as he lived so he died.
Such was Tim Carless and such will be
the fate of every one who does not try to
perform his part with a right spirit.
Jennie, said a venerable Cameronian
to his daughter, who was asking his con-
sent to accompany her urgent and favored
suitor to the altar; "Jennie, it's a very
solemn thing to get married." "I know it,
father," replied the sensible damsel; "but
it's a great deal sadder than to be."

Am Ambitious barber advertises himself
as a "Professor of Depilaculation and
"Depilacostation."

Multum in Parvo.
Original and selected, prepared for the Mercury.
Answer to last week's Charade—a pair
of Boots.
CHARADE.
In music's scale my first a standing takes;
My second always half the chorus makes;
My whole rehearses every tuneful song.
The milkmaid warbles as she trips along.
Conundrums.—What color does flogging
make a negro? It makes him yell oh!
(yellow).
Why are real friends like ghosts? Be-
cause they are often heard of, but seldom
seen.
When is a dish-cover like an omnibus in
Broadway? When it is black (tj).
What is worse in London than "raining
cats and dogs"? Hailing cabs and omni-
buses.
What is the difference between a butch-
er and a belle? The former kills to dress,
the latter dresses to kill.
Why should you be justified in picking
the pockets of a vendor of engravings?—
Because he has pictures.
A pipe of an organ is called a pedal,
but a man who sells trinkets is a pedlar.
At a feast of animals, who sits at the
head of the table? The cow—because she
carries (yves).
"Now, then," exclaimed an enraged cre-
ditor, "when are we going to have a settle-
ment, sir?"
"We have had a settlement," coolly re-
sponded the debtor, as he crossed his legs
on the table, and knocked the ashes from
his cigar.
"It is false, sir, I have never been able
to get a settlement out of you, but now
I'm determined to have it."
"My good sir, you are mistaken, I called
on you last week for the purpose of eluc-
idating the affair. I then meant to settle,
and of course that was a settle meant."
A Russian nobleman now in Paris wears
his wife on his finger. His much loved
spouse having died lately, the husband
bought a celebrated chemist to reduce her
remains to a concentrated essence, and in
a few days afterwards was presented with
a stone about half an inch in diameter,
and of a greenish tint, being the residue
product of the defunct lady! Set in a
ring, the Count thus carries on his hand a
never-dying memory of his lost love in the
shape of a precious stone.
The art of printing naturally created
high expectations, and was practiced in
Germany, Italy, &c. as a genteel pastime,
in the houses of the educated and wealthy,
who, however, could not entirely dispense
the aid of the artisan. From this inter-
mixing of rank arose the privilege of the
printers to wear arms, (to be an armiger,
esquire). In 1541 Francis I suppressed
that right relative to journeyman and ap-
prentices in France.
Why are sailors badly off in first class
ships? Because they're expected to serve
three masters.
Old Mrs. Darnley is a pattern of household
economy. She says she has made a pair
of stockings last fifteen years by only knit-
ting new feet to them every winter, and
new legs to them every other winter.
The world is a mongrel; half spaniel,
half wolf. Lash it often, and, when you
require it, a whistle will bring it to your
feet. Show but the slightest symptom of
fear, and it will turn upon and worry you
even unto death.
A Trying Moment.—When your new coat
comes home from the tailor's.
When is it dangerous to enter a church?
When there is a canon on the reading desk,
or a great gun in the pulpit.
"No pains will be spared," as the quack
said when sawing off a poor fellow's leg to
cure him of the rheumatism.
A young man advertises for a situation
as son-in-law to a respectable family.—
Would have no objection, he says, to go a
short distance into the country.
A son of the Emerald Isle having been
told that the price of potatoes had risen
exclaimed, "Faith, this is the first time I
ever grieved at the rise of a good friend."
A Down Easter cautions the public
against harboring or trusting his wife Sal-
ly Ann on his account, as he is not mar-
ried to her.
Prosperity.—Prosperity too often has
the same effect on a Christian that a calm
sea has on a Dutch warner, who frequent-
ly, it is said, in these circumstances, ties
up the rudder, gets drunk, and goes to
sleep.
Very Likely.—A youthful member of a
certain company not one hundred miles
distant from N—t, on his arriving
home a few evening since, joyfully told
the "old man" that he had just got his
arms. "Arms?" quoth the ancient, duly,
"I'm thinking 'gin the enemy come, you'll
have more need of your legs."
A certain auctioneer, while selling a
stock of (more gold than goldfishes!) jewelry,
describing a pair of jet ear-rings to some
ladies, exclaimed, very earnestly, "Indeed,
if my wife were a widow, I would posi-
tively buy them for her!"
Job Printing
in its various branches executed
with despatch.
F. A. PRATT, Editor & Proprietor

United States Laws.
OFFICIAL.
Passed at the First Session of the Thirty-eighth
Congress.
[PUBLISHED—No. 6.]
AN ACT relating to the admission of patients to
the Hospital for the Insane in the District of
Columbia.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives of the United States of America in
Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the
Treasury, in the execution of the duties of his
office, during the present war, to admit into
the Government Hospital for the Insane such
transient insane persons as may be found in the
District of Columbia without the means of self-
support, to be there detained until they can be
sent to the friends or proper places of resi-
dence, under the direction of the said Secretary
of the Interior, whose duty it shall be to provide
therefor, the steps preliminary to their admis-
sion to be the same, except as to the affidavit of
the residence of the insane, as are required in the
case of indigent paupers, who become insane
while residing in the District.
Approved, January 28, 1864.
[PUBLISHED—No. 7.]
AN ACT making appropriations for the payment
of invalid and other pensions of the United
States for the year ending the thirtieth of June,
eighteen hundred and sixty-five.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives of the United States of America in
Congress assembled, That the thanks of Con-
gress be and are hereby appropriated, out of any
money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated
for the payment of pensions for the year ending
the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-
five:
For invalid pensions under various acts, one
million dollars.
For pensions to widows, mothers, children and
sisters, under the first section of the act of fourth
July, eighteen hundred and thirty-six; act of
July twenty-first, eighteen hundred and forty-
eight; first act in the act of February third,
eighteen hundred and fifty-three; June third,
eighteen hundred and fifty-eight; and July four-
teenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, two mil-
lion two hundred thousand dollars.
Approved, January 29, 1864.
[RESOLUTION—PUBLIC No. 7.]
A RESOLUTION expressive of the thanks of
Congress to Major General Nathaniel P. Banks
and his staff, and to the soldiers under his com-
mand at Fort Hudson.
Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives of the United States of America in
Congress assembled, That the thanks of Con-
gress be and are hereby appropriated, out of any
money in the Treasury not otherwise appro-
priated, to the officers and men who have fought
under his command, "for their gallantry, good con-
duct, and soldier-like endurance."
Sec. 2. And be it further resolved, That the
President of the United States be requested to
cause the foregoing resolution to be communi-
cated to Major General Banks in such terms as
he may deem best, and to give effect there-
to.
Approved, January 28, 1864.
[RESOLUTION—PUBLIC No. 8.]
A RESOLUTION expressive of the thanks of
Congress to Major General Joseph Hooker,
Major General George G. Meade, Major Gen-
eral Oliver O. Howard, and the officers and
soldiers of the Army of the Potomac.
Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives of the United States of America in
Congress assembled, That the thanks of Con-
gress be and are hereby appropriated, out of any
money in the Treasury not otherwise appro-
priated, to the officers and soldiers of the Army of the
Potomac, for the skill, energy and endurance, which
first secured the victory of Gettysburg, and then
the subsequent blow of the advancing and powerful
army of rebels led by General Robert E. Lee;
and to Major General George G. Meade, Major
General Oliver O. Howard, and the officers and
soldiers of that army, for the skill and heroic
valor which at Gettysburg repulsed, defeated,
and drove back, broken and dispirited, beyond
the Hagerstown, the veteran army of the re-
bellion.
Approved, January 28, 1864.
[RESOLUTION—PUBLIC No. 10.]
A RESOLUTION presenting the thanks of Con-
gress to Cornelius Vanderbilt for a gift of the
steamship Vanderbilt.
Whereas Cornelius Vanderbilt, of New York,
did, during the spring of eighteen hundred and
sixty-two, make a free gift to his imperiled coun-
try of his new and staunch steamship "Vander-
bilt," of five thousand tons burden, built by him
with the greatest care, of the best material, at a
cost of eight hundred thousand dollars, which
steamship has ever since been actively employed
in the service of the Republic against the rebel
devastations of her commerce; and whereas the
said Cornelius Vanderbilt has in no manner
sought any requital of this magnificent gift, nor
any official recognition thereof; Therefore,
Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives of the United States of America in
Congress assembled, That the thanks of Congress
be presented to Cornelius Vanderbilt for this
unique manifestation of a fervid and large-souled
patriotism.
Sec. 2. And be it further resolved, That the
President of the United States be requested to
cause a gold medal to be struck, which shall
embody an attestation of the nation's gratitude
for this gift; and that said medal shall be for-
warded to Cornelius Vanderbilt, a copy of it being
made and deposited for preservation in the Library
of Congress.
Approved, January 28, 1864.
Life has its spring, its summer, its au-
tumn, and winter. But—The Winter of
the Heart—let it never come upon you.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 20, 1864.

EUROPE, as last noticed, was left in a critical and uncertain situation in regard to the question most likely to disturb the general peace of that quarter. The subsequent advice of last week left the question of the expected war against Denmark still perhaps undecided, as nothing was then known to have occurred denoting a change in the posture of the several antagonistic powers. Austria and Prussia appeared to have undertaken the hegemony in the field for the Germans, as those members of the Federation might well feel themselves entitled to do, because they have long been regarded as powers of the first class in the German interest. The smaller kingdoms holding only the second rank in the Federation were expected, it seems, to yield to Austria and Prussia the special honor of advancing upon Schleswig. But what is likely to render this Danish and German complicity more uncertain in its result, is the great number of still smaller princes or petty states of the third rank that are to be taken into the account; though they are capable of doing but little else than rendering the German machine more complicated, and by that means at least embarrassing important movements.

In looking upon the condition of the people under such a multitude of petty sovereignties, it may seem to be regretted that, amidst the wars and revolutions to which Germany has been subjected, the whole country has not yet been relieved of many of its burdensome principalities. Such diminutive powers have single no effective strength; they can give but little support in that manner, though they must frequently need to receive support while they remain in that condition. This circumstance renders the situation of all the petty German States one of great anxiety in times of general commotion, and exposes them to undergo the most distressing vicissitudes in endeavoring to preserve the integrity of a divided nationality. In this point of view, it might seem to be better for such a population to be taken under the protection of a generous conqueror, than to remain the humble and despised subjects of their present arbitrary rulers.

Conquests in Europe are not always followed by the worst consequences of subjugation. Sometimes indeed the survivors of battles and sieges which have proved ineffectual for their defense or by which they have been reduced to submission, find themselves in no worse condition on that account, if not under alleviated circumstances. In such cases, however, the objects of the conquest have not been to destroy the lives of the peoples or to diminish their means of happiness, in any respect. When France lay at the mercy of the conquerors of Napoleon the Great, the vindictive of the principle contended for in the restoration of the Bourbons, then the good conservative principle of Crowns, was deemed sufficient. The French population were not suffered to reimburse the nations for the expenses incurred in the various coalitions against the French Emperor as a rebel against their constitution. If the Allies did not enter Paris in triumph for the benefit, they did not use their power as they might have done for the injury of France. The nation was simply replaced within its ancient frontier—without acquisitions but without loss. And being no longer regarded as hostile, the same nation was allowed to be represented in an assembly of pacificators on an equal footing with those to whom as enemies it had just before been in hostile opposition.

The assembled wisdom of Europe, in 1810, did not assume to make an example of the French, either as inhabitants or as a nation. The soundness of such a policy was verified by the result, which lasted about as long as the principle of "legitimacy" on which it was founded, and it could not be expected to last much longer. The effect of an opposite policy could not have been better; and if there is anything to be learned from history would probably have been worse. Nothing in such cases can be gained by outraging the instincts of human nature, and insulting as well as wounding the population upon which you must finally rely for complete success. The turmoil of wars, insurrections and revolutions, have here and there for so many ages blackened the records of history, that something should be learned from such lessons. The saying that history repeats itself will be found too true, all the way from the Grecian to the American States. The words of the impartial historian of Athens may seem to be prophetic, because they are truly philosophical. He gives a narrative of things that have happened and, as he says, "of the same and very similar things which, as men are, shall hereafter come to pass."

WHILE every one perhaps is looking for later news in relation to the affairs of Europe, and to the sentiments entertained there in relation to the affairs of America, many may derive some satisfaction to learn that Mr. GEORGE THOMPSON has this week been lecturing in Boston upon his favorite subject, particularly as it is viewed by the working people and the masses of his countrymen. Mr. THOMPSON recently represented the "Tower of Babel" in the British Parliament; but he is better known to Americans as a popular lecturer in this country, many years ago, when the subject, now shaking the whole country to the centre of its foundations, first began to be more generally agitated. His lecture a few evenings ago, as published in the Boston Journal, gives information of the progress of his cause as well as through the instrumentalities of two English organizations, called "Union and Emancipation Societies." He represented that the South had got the start at first by means of their emissaries. That there was still recently a lamentable degree of ignorance among the people of England respecting the frame of the American Government and the relations which the States have to one another and to that Government. From the early movements and documents in relation to the rebellion, that the English people had come to the conclusion that the object of the war was not so much to destroy slavery as to restore the Federal Union. But that after the policy of the American Administration had become clearly fixed in opposition to slavery, he could find more freedom to speak to Americans, and from that time it began to be easier to place matters in a right position before Englishmen in general. He said, however, that the question among them was only a prolongation of the old strife [more or less in the abstract perhaps] between those favorable to liberty and those classes which are more favorable to aristocracy and monarchy. Of the latter, are mentioned some members of Parliament who took an interest in the rebellion, particularly Lord CAMPBELL, Mr. LINCOLN, Mr. GREGORY, and Mr. BERSFORD HOPE. Of the former, are given the names of JOHN STUART MILL, Professor NICOLAI of the Glasgow University, Professor NEWMAN HALL, the Hon. and Rev. BAPTIST NOEL, and concluding with JOHN BRIGHT, to whose genius and oratory in the halls of legislation the lecturer paid the highest compliments.

No questions have ever given rise to a greater difference of opinion among men, than those which relate to the culpability or responsibility of making war, and especially of bringing about all the evils of a civil war. In the latter case, the responsibility is of a nature which can never be shared only by a few. And when a multitude engage in a conflict, individuals must be supposed to act in the enterprise more or less as they are swayed and governed by others and by circumstances. The whole body may or may not be controlled by a majority—the *major* and *major* of the multitude are never taken, or if taken are not to be relied upon as accurately recorded. The law takes cognizance of a *fact* or act as the commencement of a rebellion, but that act must have had many antecedents of great account in the moral consideration of the subject. Every step taken in departing from the obligations of good faith, is a step taken toward an open renunciation of authority. But many such steps must be taken, and not by one or a few, before a general combination can be formed for proceeding to extremities. And if good faith is demanded on one side, good faith should be kept on the other. One side is not to be released from obligations, while the same are held to be still binding on the other. And here we find the source of such troubles so far as the matter and not persons are concerned. But when a nation begins to be affected with the disease of moral obliquity and runs riot with passion, altogether or in factions, the period of disintegration and decay has manifestly commenced. Obedience on one side will be refused, because protection on the other is denied. A writer remarking upon the war of the Cavaliers and Round heads under CHARLES I. of England, says in effect, the fault is not to be divided exclusively among those who fight, or among those who lead; not entirely among the apparent transgressors—but it should be charged in a measure to every one who, by folly, weakness, passion, prejudice or hatred, at any time lays the foundation for strife in after years. Yet who can separate the complex threads of the tangled skein of the past, and tell who most contributed to bring about that condition which all wise men must regret?

Mr. Editor.—A poor, hard-working woman, whose husband is employed on the Government fortifications on Dutch Island, was found dead in her bed, on Wednesday night, last. A jury was summoned, composed of the following: The City Sergeant, City Treasurer, City Marshal, South City Constable Carpenter, Chas. C. Heath, and Mr. Mayberry. They arrived at the conclusion that she came to her death from exposure and intemperance, although one of the witnesses swore positively that she was in her room after returning home, as sober and proper as any other woman, but suffering fearfully from the effects of cold. It is rather singular that the four quarters of the city should be ransacked for "true and lawful men," to compose this jury, as two-thirds of them were city officials, including Mr. Scott, who, by the way, is now honored as a State officer. Of course the worst clerk of the Supreme Court, Dr. Wood, who acted as Coroner, had not the pick of them. There were numbers on the same who, within a moment's call, who were eligible both as Tax-payers and Voters, to act as jurors, some of whom pay more taxes than the jury together.

We shall look forward at the proper time for the evidence elicited, being heretofore under the impression that inquired was an open above-board proceeding; yet, in this case, the evidence by which a poor laboring woman's memory is endeavored to be stamped with infamy, is unaccountably withheld.

TAX-PAYER.

Major JOHN J. GOULD arrived home Wednesday night about seven-and-a-half veterans of the First R. I. Cavalry, who have re-enlisted. Although he ranks but Captain, we speak of him as Major GOULD, for he was appointed to that office some months since, and has been acting as such with the New Hampshire Battalion, although never having been mustered into the service as Major. We understand that it is the intention of His Excellency the Governor, to obtain permission to recruit the remaining Battalion of the First Cavalry to a regiment, which it is thought can be accomplished by offering the bounty recently voted by the Assembly.

A large square of glass in one of the front windows of Mr. GORTON ANDERSON'S store was broken Tuesday night about 12 o'clock by some person who probably anticipated making a valuable haul of rare coin. The thief took several pieces of coin but as he should have anticipated, got shamed, for what appeared to be gold and silver, was but brass and lead. So much for trying to rob a Barber. Mr. ANDERSON'S greatest loss is by the breaking of his window, which is worth in this time about six or seven dollars.

A destructive fire broke out in Gloucester, Mass., Thursday morning, it having been destroyed nearly half of the town, and rendered a loss of about half a million dollars. The weather was so cold and the wind blew so hard that the firemen with hand engines were unable to do anything, finally a steam fire engine arrived from Salem and combated with the elements until danger was over. But the only way in which the fire was stopped was by blowing up houses with powder.

The price of printing paper is now twenty cents per pound, which before the rebellion was eight and nine cents. By this great rise our profits are cut down to a small margin. We speak of this matter simply to remind a large number of our friends that the small amounts due us would be very acceptable just now, as we want the cash to pay for a supply of paper just ordered. It is not pleasant to be compelled to make a public bid, but it is more unpleasant to pay interest for money, when twice the amount required is due us.

The Supreme Court held its February term in this city during the week, but transacted but little business. No bills were found by the grand jury and consequently there were no jury trials. Several cases were continued and some motions were discussed and after passing resolutions in regard to the death of Hon. HENRY Y. CRANSTON, the Court adjourned.

The Promenade Concert on the evening of the 22d inst., under the direction of the Artillery Company, promises to be a fine affair and the rapid sale of tickets indicate a large attendance. The Naval Band has been engaged and Bellevue Hall will be appropriately decorated for the occasion. Tickets may be procured at TILLEY'S or either of the Book and Music Stores.

Captain ALLEN GARDNER of Jamestown, a veteran volunteer from Battery E, 1st R. I. H. A., has passed Gen. CARY'S Board of Examination at Washington as Second Lieutenant.

The new Enrollment Bill is not understood to be yet perfected by the requisite action of both houses of Congress. But it appears that the House of Representatives adopted the provision made by the Senate for the exemption from the draft of those who are religiously scrupulous about bearing arms, provided they belong to a denomination whose creed and rules of discipline prohibit their members from the performance of that duty. This was indeed an improvement of the Bill so far as to make it better, in this respect, than it was before it, so amended as to give it a personal hearing—but it still refers to the existence of denominations, which some may regard as unnecessary, and some, as even unconstitutional. Not that the distinction of any denomination is not well deserved—but simply because it is a distinction among denominations, not necessarily involving any personal difference—and making the action of the government fall partly at least upon denominations and not solely upon persons in their civil capacity. The first amendment made to the Federal Constitution, and the first in the opinion of many in importance, prohibited Congress from making any "law respecting an establishment of religion" or to prevent the "free exercise" of the same by the people in any personal capacity. And the meaning of that article in our fundamental law may perhaps be correctly understood as prohibiting all legislation by Congress upon religious establishments—because as such they are expected to have nothing to do with ecclesiastical matters. Besides, if such legislation in this instance should be considered constitutional, it is evident that any jurisdiction of the kind would complicate and be likely to embarrass the execution of the law. The difficulties in that Department are stated to be sufficiently great, without increasing those which already exist and are reasonably to be apprehended. Other States may not be in the same spirit of freedom as Rhode Island in this respect, and equally ready with our government to enforce the act it necessary under all circumstances. That the result should be satisfactory, however, everywhere, something will depend upon the nature of the Bill—which ought to be just what no draft should again be resorted to in this State.

The committee on contributions out of the city to the Metropolitan Fair, which is to be held in New York next week, have put forth the following circular, and as the proceeds of the Fair are to be given for the benefit of soldiers without regard to which State they belong, many will no doubt take pleasure in contributing their mite.

Sir.—We would respectfully ask you to donate something to the Metropolitan Fair, which will be held on the 28th March, next. As this city is the point of the arrival and departure of so many troops, and as all the proceeds of the Metropolitan Fair are to go into the treasury of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, contributions to this Fair will redound to the benefit of soldiers of every State, and on all battle fields. Arrangements are perfected for the proper receipt, care, record, exhibition, and sale of articles in your line, and for advising the world of donations to this patriotic cause, and of the names and residences of the donors. If you send anything, or influence others to send anything, you will give timely information of it to our Chairman, by mail, stating the article or articles shipped, how and when shipped, their value, and when they are from. They should be marked "Metropolitan Fair, New York," and have your initials above this mark, that we may know the contents and source of the packages—among the great number we expect to receive—before they are opened. The committee of this Commission companies have generously agreed to carry contributions to us, without charge. It will be best that bulky articles should arrive here during the week previous to the fair, though if it should be more convenient for you, they can be sent at any time. The committee of this Commission are ready to receive anything, and to forward it to the fair, and to have your initials above this mark, that we may know the contents and source of the packages—among the great number we expect to receive—before they are opened. The committee of this Commission companies have generously agreed to carry contributions to us, without charge. 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